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RECOGNIZING DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY'S 2006 HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, as Democratic Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I rise today to congratulate Dialogue on Diversity for its 2006 Health Care Symposium. I am proud to recognize the Dialogue's effort to inform and educate the public about the importance of an effective preventive health care system.

Dialogue on Diversity, founded in 1989, is committed to improving the economic and social condition of women in the U.S. and around the world. Its programs bring together multi-ethnic women for a worldwide interchange on concerns of vital importance to the world's women and their families.

Today, our health care system is not meeting the needs of all people, particularly in racial and ethnic minority communities where health disparities continue to grow. Discussions and symposiums like Dialogue on Diversity's 2006 Health Care Symposium will help to address these important issues.

Again, I want to commend the Dialogue on Diversity for its 2006 health care event and wish them the best of luck in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF ED TEMPLETON, NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Ed Templeton, the President of SRP Federal Credit Union, on his recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, NAFCU.

For the past 34 years, Ed has dedicated his life on behalf of improving financial institutions in America and currently serves on the South Carolina Credit Union League Board of Directors. His illustrious experience further includes service as President of the Columbia Chapter of Credit Unions, member of NAFCU's Education Committee, and member of the Better Business Bureau of Augusta, Georgia.

As the President of SRP Federal Credit Union, Ed has focused on ensuring his members receive helpful, personal service. Through his credit union, Ed is continuously educating his members on how to prevent identity theft. He also understands that today's youth must be armed with the knowledge to be financially savvy. SRP Federal Credit Union established the "Teaching Kids How to Handle Money Responsibly" program which was designed to help children at an early age

develop the decision making skills for sound future financial decisions.

Ed's involvement to improve the lives of others can be further illustrated through his involvement as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Shepard Blood Center in Augusta, and in his past service as Elected Commissioner for the City of Hephzibah.

It is because of the good work of Ed and others like him that the credit union movement enjoys the success it has today. Such service is the hallmark of the credit union movement and I wish Ed the best of luck in his new role as a member of the NAFCU Board of Directors.

THE YOUTHBUILD TRANSFER ACT

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support of the YouthBuild Transfer Act, S. 3534. The bill amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 provides for the transfer of the YouthBuild program from HUD to the Department of Labor. I would like to acknowledge Mr. CASTLE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Mr. WILLIAM LACY CLAY and Mr. DALE KILDEE who supported this bill. I also want to thank Mr. FRANK, Ranking Member of the Committee on Financial Services for sponsoring the bill.

The YouthBuild Transfer Act will do four important things. It will:

(1) Enable disadvantaged youth to obtain the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in occupations in demand and postsecondary education and training opportunities;

(2) Provide disadvantaged youth with opportunities for meaningful work and service to their communities;

(3) Foster the development of employment and leadership skills and commitment to community development among youth in low income communities; and

(4) Expand the supply of permanent affordable housing for low-income families by utilizing the energies and talents of disadvantaged youth.

The education, employment, and housing needs of our nation's most vulnerable youth must be one of our highest priorities. Since 1994, the YouthBuild program has awarded \$485 million in grants, enabling 47,000 youth to obtain education, training and trade skills related to the building and rehabilitation of affordable housing for low-income families and the homeless. The program has a long track record of proven success, although for the past two years funding has been down 23 percent from \$65 million to \$50 million. YouthBuild would be extended for five years consistent with other Work Investment Act programs, and would provide for greater flexibility in the use of funds. This program is being extended just as the U.S. Bureau of Census released the most recent data on youth and poverty in the United States.

In August 2006, the U.S. Bureau of the Census reported that the poverty rate for children in the U.S. was higher than the rates for people 18 to 64 years and older. Children represent 34.9 percent of the people living in poverty and 25 percent of the total population of

the United States. The poverty rate for young children under the age of 6 living in families were 20.0 percent and 4.8 million. Even more astounding is that for those children living in households headed by females 52.9 percent were in poverty, over five times the rate of their counterparts in married families 9.9 percent. For children under 18 living in families headed by females, 42.8 percent were in poverty, compared with 8.5 percent for married couples. Many of us know that these youth are most at risk, and that any public policy or program that is designed to assist these young people as they prepare to enter the workforce is an investment in our future.

So why YouthBuild? The poverty data paints a very vivid picture of what is going on in America. Too many American youth live in poverty, and are robbed of opportunities to take full advantage of all their God-given talents. Even Alan Greenspan, the former Chairman of the Federal Reserve System, pointed to the fact that the historic causes of poverty and disenfranchisement detrimentally impact our entire nation. When the least among us do well, we know the entire nation benefits. In effect, these youth, who are vital to the economic well-being of this country, are handicapped by poverty, poor education and the lack of strong viable communities with housing that is livable, affordable and safe. YouthBuild is one program that acknowledges the experience of millions of American youth by making real investments in their education, employment skills and leadership development. It also provides housing for the homeless and low-income families that represents another approach to address what is an overlooked group.

The Secretary of Labor is authorized to fund YouthBuild activities through grants for which public and nonprofit entities can compete. In addition, there are provisions in the bill to ensure the orderly transition of the program from HUD to the Department of Labor. In 2005, 14,000 youth were turned away from the YouthBuild program for lack of funding. Over 1000 communities would like to participate in YouthBuild, and this bill will make that happen for many of them.

Mr. Speaker I am convinced that the YouthBuild program represents a major step to refocusing our national resources toward a well-established vehicle that can provide hope and opportunity for disadvantaged youth in America. These young people deserve every chance, and we must continue to provide opportunities for them to succeed. By better preparing our disadvantaged youth to be competitive and to function in the ever changing global economy we will continue to reduce poverty and strengthen American households. YouthBuild will improve our youth and increase housing opportunity for the homeless. I urge my Colleagues to support the bill.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BRIDGET MASIELLO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to remember the life of a proud